

McGuire

Serving Our Nation's Heroes

Monthly

McGuire VA Medical Center Heart Transplant Program News

The McGuire VA Medical Center Heart Transplant Program has a long history of providing heart transplant services to our patients with advanced heart failure. The first VA heart transplant program in the nation was started at McGuire VA Medical Center in November 1980 with the leadership of Dr. Szabolcs Szentpetery. The program has continued over the past 33 years, today with the leadership of Dr. Gundars Katlaps, Surgical Director and Dr. Neil Lewis, Medical Director. Remarkably, Dr. Szentpetery remains active and on staff at McGuire, an accomplishment of which we are extremely proud, in support of our VA healthcare for our Nation's Veterans.

The program continues to be on the cutting edge in the treatment of



From left; Drs. Katlaps, Szentpetery and staff during a recent cardiac procedure

advanced and end-stage heart failure. McGuire remains the only in-house VA Heart Transplant program in the nation. McGuire VA is also the only VAMC in the nation to offer Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) as a bridge to transplant

and as destination (permanent) treatment. The McGuire LVAD..
continued on page 3

Richmond VAMC Launches the getwell :) network



A patient room monitor displays the getwell :) network welcome screen.

Imagine you have just been admitted to the hospital. You gather that you will be ok, and more than likely be discharged in a few days. But, you want to know more about your illness or procedure and you have questions.

What if you could press a button on your television screen and numerous videos about your procedure or illness would play and teach you everything you need to know?

Imagine you are an inpatient at the medical center and you are finding your room is cold. Your nurse recently left the room, so it's not likely they will return in the next few minutes. However, you don't want to be cold until the nurse returns.

What if you could select a prompt on your television screen that would immediately inform environmental services that you need your room temperature adjusted?

Imagine your family has left and there's nothing good on TV. You're bored. What if you had access to the Internet, on-demand movies, and games?

To help address these situations, McGuire VAMC has launched a new Interactive Patient Care system, the getwell :) network. It provides patient engagement solutions that assist health care providers to engage, educate and empower patients. Interactive Patient Care transforms clinical practices to improve patient outcomes, care quality, safety, and service performance.

Special Points
of Interest:

Mental Health
breaks new
ground

Richmond VA
Medical Center
and Massey
Cancer Center
partner

Ground Breaking for New Mental Health Expansion

In early November, McGuire VA Medical Center held a Ground Breaking for a new 19,000 square foot addition for the expansion of Mental Health Services. The crisp blue sky morning was perfect for the event as over one hundred Veterans, staff members and area media stood outside the emergency room at the very site where the new entrance for the center will be located. The new addition will offer a spectrum of recovery oriented, patient centered, mental health services for Veterans and their families. The expansion will include expanded exam and group rooms and assessment and therapy space.

“What we are creating is a Veteran’s recovery center.”

“What we are creating is a Veteran’s recovery center,” said Brian Meyer, interim associate chief of mental health services. Commissioner Paul Galanti, Department of Veterans Services also provided remarks for the Ground Breaking. The \$8.2 million expansion will be completed in approximately one year.



Ground breaking ceremony above and at right, Brian Meyer, interim associate chief of mental health services.



Clinical Expertise-Partnering to serve Veterans: McGuire VA Medical Center and Massey Cancer Center

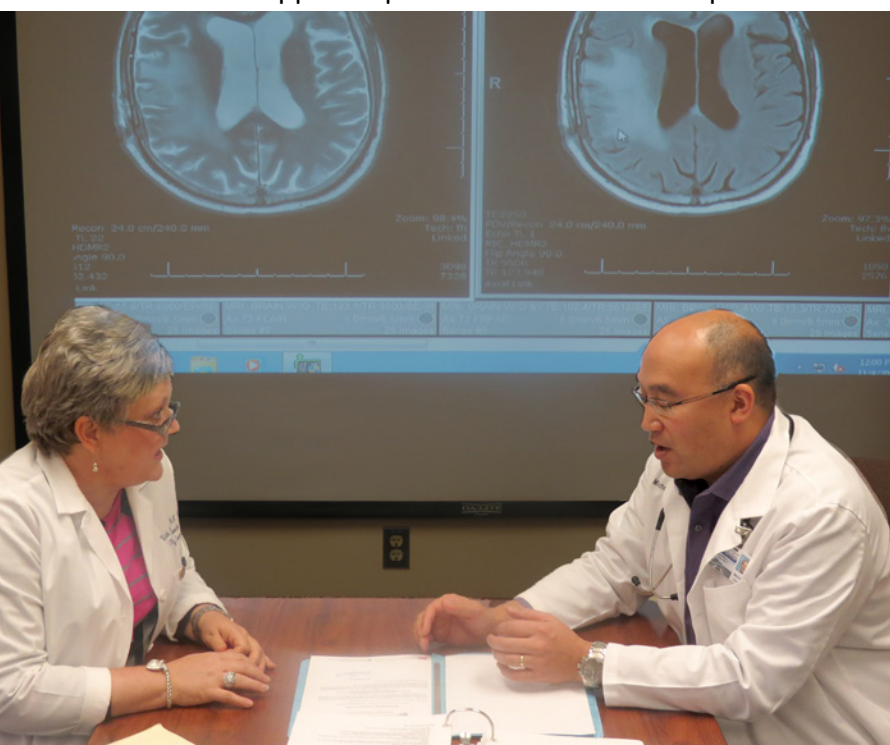
Meet Vicki Skinner, RN, MSN, the Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator for McGuire VA Medical Center. She has worked with both the Richmond VA Medical Center and Massey Cancer Center for the past 14 years. Ms. Skinner coordinates all oncology research studies sponsored through Massey Cancer Center at the Richmond VAMC. Through the Massey Cancer Center supported position she facilitates the process

for Veterans to participate in National Cancer Institute (NCI) sponsored clinical trials.

Michael Chang, M.D. is the Chief of Radiation Oncology for the Richmond VA Medical Center. Dr. Chang specializes in cancers of the central nervous system (CNS), head and neck region, lung, and prostate. Dr. Chang is responsible for the CNS stereotactic radio-surgery programs at both the Richmond VA Medical Center and VCU Massey Cancer Center.

Just this month the Richmond VA Medical Center has been awarded a three-year term of accreditation in Radiation Oncology as the result of a recent review by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The ACR seal of accreditation represents the highest level of quality and patient safety. It is awarded only to facilities meeting specific practice guidelines and technical standards developed by ACR after a peer-review evaluation by board-certified radiation oncologists and medical physicists.

Richmond VA Medical Center is currently 1 of only 7 prostate Brachytherapy centers in the nation; Richmond is actively seeing patients from VAs throughout the country. It is also the first VA site to utilize Multi-parametric MRI (mp-MRI) for treatment of prostate cancer.



Heart Transplant Program , continued

program started with the first implant nearly 20 years ago in 1995. Following the 2008 FDA approval of the new generation of continuous flow LVADs, the McGuire program has increased its LVAD activity in view of the burgeoning epidemic of heart failure and the greatly improved outcomes after LVAD surgery. This has allowed us to provide the sickest patients the opportunity to dramatically improve their state of health, and it has increased the opportunity for a successful outcome following transplantation. Since 2008, McGuire VAMC has undertaken 64 LVAD surgeries. 2012-13, McGuire VAMC has performed 16 heart transplants and 34 LVAD operations; 18 LVADs to date in calendar year 2013.

As this year is coming to an end, we celebrate the many blessings of all the services in the medical center that support our Heart Transplant Program. We honor Dr. Szentpetery's dedication to patient care with his over 30 years of service in the McGuire Heart Program. We are excited to report that one of our patients is approaching the 30th anniversary of his heart transplant at the start of 2014, this is a truly remarkable event, that is a rarity in world heart



HEART AND LUNG TRANSPLANT TEAM

1986 - Dr. Szentpetery and staff in OR #5

transplant statistics. Furthermore, one of our patients will pass the 5 year anniversary of his LVAD surgery in December 2013. As we move forward to 2014, we are grateful to all of our Veterans who have faithfully served our Nation and we strive to continue to provide outstanding healthcare for their well-being.

Music to the Ears: McGuire VAMC Jazz Band

In April 2013, the Recreation Therapy department at the Richmond VA Medical Center formed a local Veterans band to play at Veteran service organization meetings and special programs. The members include Veterans, patients and community musical talents. The band members are, Mr. Carl Washington ,congas; Rob Gray and John Harvey, guitar; Mark Branch, harmonica; Christian Glover, drums and percussions; Neil Glover, bass; and Mr.Daniels, percussions.

The band specializes in jazz, top 40 and military selections as requested. Most recently, the group played patriotic songs at the Homeless Stand Down at the medical

center. After their performance a fan described the band as "impressive, entertaining and downright outstanding."

The band is noted for their harmonies and fun interaction with the audience. Rob Gray, lead- singer and guitarist, performs center stage and each of the other members; including 8th grade drummer Christian Glover step forward to showcase their individual musical

contributions to the band. The band is scheduled to perform throughout central Virginia for community and Veteran Service Organizations.

To schedule the McGuire Jazz Band for your next event, please contact Recreation Therapy at 804-675-6908.





Richmond Hospice & Palliative Care Staff

Upcoming Events

Holiday Bazaar - December 6

Employee Talent Show - December 9

Tree Lighting - December 10 at 3 pm

Please share your events with us for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. Send an email to: Darlene.Edwards@va.gov

November
at McGuire



PERIOPERATIVE NURSES WEEK



November Leadership Forum

VISN 6 GOLD LEVEL Award

Industrial Hygiene/Staff Safety award & Safety and Fire Protection award:

Jason Smith; Curt Rosenthal; Chase Pattillo; Westly Jones; Darryl Sharp

Toastmasters Pins for:

Beverly Ross – Achieving the Advanced Communicator Bronze award

Thelma Roach-Serry – Achieving the Advanced Communicator Gold award

Service Awards, Years of Service:

Eddie L. Brunson, 35 years – Nutrition and Food Service

Constance O'Brien McCann, 30 years - HRMS

George Rowland, 30 years - Nutrition and Food Services.